

**Subject:** Re: Suggestion for Taxi Staging

**From:** Thomas Drischler

**Date:** 12/28/2015 12:30 PM

**To:** Omar Pulido

**CC:** Val Velasco <vVelasco@aol.com>, "GOMEZ, CHRISTINA" <CGOMEZ@lawa.org>, "KATNICH, MARISA" <MKATNICH@lawa.org>, Debbie Bowers <Dbowers@lawa.org>, Cynthia Guidry <Cguidry@lawa.org>, "TRIFILETTI, LISA" <LTRIFILETTI@lawa.org>, "FLINT, DEBORAH" <Dflint@lawa.org>, Pat Tomcheck <PTomcheck@lawa.org>, "Shirlene M. Sue" <SSue@lawa.org>, "MENGISTU, SAMSON" <SMengistu@lawa.org>, Jeannine Brands <jeannine.brands@lacity.org>, Robert Andalon <Robert.Andalon@lacity.org>, Zaki Mustafa <zaki.mustafa@lacity.org>, Ken Husting <KEN.HUSTING@lacity.org>, Mohammad Blorfroshan <mo.blorfroshan@lacity.org>, Laurie Hughes <lhughes@gatewaytola.org>

Hello to all. Here is an update for you regarding the overflow issue with new LAX taxi holding lot .

I spoke with Mr. Bitaraf today, who assured me that the taxicabs have been removed from the 98th Street meter zones. Cabs waiting for Pink have been directed to the new waiting zones on Westchester Parkway near Jenny as we had planned. This will add to ATS' personnel needs because they will now have to have at least one extra staff person at the Westchester Parkway location and another at the taxi holding lot around the clock. Drivers will be given a paper pass at the backup holding area which they must present when entering the main lot during Pink dispatching.

There is still a problem with the timing of the signal at 96th Street and Vicksburg, causing long waiting times for dispatched taxicabs to access the 96th Street Bridge. I will ask my colleagues at LADOT to address that.

Happy New Year.

Tom

Tom Drischler  
Taxicab Administrator/Manager  
Franchise & Taxicab Regulation, LADOT  
100 South Main Street, 10th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 972-8431

On Tue, Dec 22, 2015 at 2:25 PM, Omar Pulido <[omar.pulido@lacity.org](mailto:omar.pulido@lacity.org)> wrote:

Hi all,

This issue is very important to our Office as well, as we have been working with LAWA and LADOT since the initial selection of the site to identify a new location for the overflow parking and improve access into the site as much as possible under the existing constraints the new lot presents. The adjustments we made included temporarily removing the meters along Vicksburg to provide continuous northbound flow from 98th to 96th, and establishing new overflow taxi parking along Westchester Pkwy to replace the previous location along Alverstone. Yet these adjustments have not addressed the issues we are currently experiencing along 98th Street.

As Laurie mentioned, the Code Pink dispatch protocol is an issue, and I believe is the root cause of the issues we are experiencing. The existing site and it's operations do not efficiently accommodate the Code Pink dispatch protocol, and although new signage along 98th Street, or a new overflow parking location may help, I also think we need to re-assess how the Code Pink policy itself works.

I understand we are in the middle of the holidays but if possible and available, is there sometime early next week we can meet to identify the problems, and begin working on possible short term and long term solutions?

Thank you!

Logo5-web.png<[https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/2I971k7xn14Ivm\\_Zw9md\\_K96bQvUf2wZPabG6hkaPSnT3KLyKu9LUoLYEmRdVDMa3foiPaLr\\_i40ntDJrzvZtEDRTHP90\\_5pdlmYVl5Godcn5soJYKEqQsKdxJHulg](https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/2I971k7xn14Ivm_Zw9md_K96bQvUf2wZPabG6hkaPSnT3KLyKu9LUoLYEmRdVDMa3foiPaLr_i40ntDJrzvZtEDRTHP90_5pdlmYVl5Godcn5soJYKEqQsKdxJHulg)>

Omar Pulido

LAX Community Liaison

Councilmember Mike Bonin

City of Los Angeles

(323) 740-0494 <tel:%28323%29%20740-0494> | [www.11thdistrict.com](http://www.11thdistrict.com)  
<<http://www.11thdistrict.com/>>

Sign Up for Mike's Email Update <[http://www.11thdistrict.com/sign\\_up](http://www.11thdistrict.com/sign_up)>

Download the City of Los Angeles MyLA311 app for smartphones!  
MyLA311 links Angelenos with the services and information they need to enjoy their city, beautify their community and stay connected with their local government. With MyLA311, City of Los Angeles information and services are just a few taps away.

Android app on Google Play<[https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/Bt1Hb-jSY7Sf\\_hDi7VrtvW7Ym3haPJROfZl20J-4Zhc0WpjryObt7pY14AVh\\_G\\_95kwtdyMcB-rzTWuBA3JqHXrXT0d8p548YuVur-0Ph1UVNK9YyrlYAcRYLkOTAw](https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/Bt1Hb-jSY7Sf_hDi7VrtvW7Ym3haPJROfZl20J-4Zhc0WpjryObt7pY14AVh_G_95kwtdyMcB-rzTWuBA3JqHXrXT0d8p548YuVur-0Ph1UVNK9YyrlYAcRYLkOTAw)> Download the app on the Apple store<<https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/KObAERPgPdpKdapLZl1NYr1PEbvHDIgO5rWZ4btWOVQKuTNkBGesEKspkfEftMmnTivszvwJRhtLSVEmmrIB5PnLeX014j52Kp-CTASH6xFqKRfrBQcDp3ltGKBBSw>>

On Mon, Dec 21, 2015 at 9:19 PM, Val Velasco <[vVelasco@aol.com](mailto:vVelasco@aol.com)> wrote:

Good evening everyone:

I was astonished last week as I left the airport, taking 98th street to Sepulveda. If you have a chance, drive it yourself to see what is going on; lots of taxis parked out of the "holding lot" on 98th street and cross streets. Cab drivers out of their cars, jay walking across the streets, discarding fast food containers/wrappers and cigarette butts on the sidewalks and streets. Taxis spontaneously pulling away from the curb into traffic.

What can we do to make this a better situation and enforce the holding area so cabs are actually waiting in the lot? GPS fencing?

Looking forward to your thoughts.

Thanks so much.

Best regards,  
Val Velasco

Valeria C. Velasco, Esq.

Estate Planning: Trust, Wills and Probate  
The Law Offices of Valeria C. Velasco  
8055 W. Manchester Ave., Ste. 710  
Playa del Rey, CA 90293  
310-821-7890

"All communication herein is considered CONFIDENTIAL and is PROTECTED communication."

On Dec 21, 2015, at 4:35 PM, Laurie Hughes <[lhughes@gatewaytola.org](mailto:lhughes@gatewaytola.org)> wrote:

Hello again,

As we have stated before, the Taxi Holding Lot

location selection on 98th Street is a big problem, and exacerbated by the "Pink Code" system for back-up taxis taking up the parking spaces on the streets immediately surrounding the business district / Gateway to L.A.

Since the parking lot immediately to the east of the Taxi "Holding" Lot is owned by LAWA (operated by Easy Park), LAWA should direct all "Pink Code" taxis to park in that lot and the parking meters should be posted "No Commercial" parking.

LAWA created a very bad problem for our district. It is dangerous for pedestrians, shuttles and the nearby businesses.

This seems to us the most expedient temporary resolution to the problem of the taxis lining the streets. The location of the Holding Lot (not an appropriate name)... Needs to be revisited.

Laurie Hughes

(310) 216-7328 <tel:%28310%29%20216-7328>

From: GOMEZ, CHRISTINA [<mailto:CGOMEZ@lawa.org>]  
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 12:44 PM  
To: Laurie Hughes; 'ATS Front Desk';  
[tom.drischler@lacity.org](mailto:tom.drischler@lacity.org)  
Cc: Landside Comments; KATNICH, MARISA; PULIDO,  
OMAR; 'ATS4 Office'; [behzadbitaraf@aol.com](mailto:behzadbitaraf@aol.com)  
Subject: RE: ATS Response RE: ATS Response RE:  
Commercial Taxi Complaint for 12/2/2015 ATS15-031

Hello,

We conferred with ATS and there is no existing rules/laws allowing ATS to discipline for taxis using public access areas.

At Marisa's request, I am looping in Tom Drischler of DOT into this email as a rule must be enacted by DOT for taxis to be prohibited from using public areas due to a negative impact of commercial uses in public access locations.

Thanks,

Christina

From: Laurie Hughes  
<mailto:lhughes@gatewaytola.org>  
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 10:16 AM  
To: 'ATS Front Desk'; GOMEZ, CHRISTINA  
Cc: Landside Comments; KATNICH, MARISA; PULIDO,  
OMAR; 'ATS4 Office'; [behzadbitaraf@aol.com](mailto:behzadbitaraf@aol.com)  
Subject: RE: ATS Response RE: ATS Response RE:  
Commercial Taxi Complaint for 12/2/2015 ATS15-031

Good morning all,

This morning at 9:35 a.m. there were a lot of taxis staging in our area on 98th Street ... see picture.

Is there a penalty for drivers not adhering to directions to park on Westchester Parkway?

Perhaps if we give you the Cab #'s they can be not allowed to pick-up at LAX for 30 days.

Laurie Hughes

(310) 216-7328 <tel:%28310%29%20216-7328>

From: ATS Front Desk  
[mailto:atsloffice@gmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 2:41 PM  
To: 'GOMEZ, CHRISTINA'  
Cc: 'Landside Comments'; [MKATNICH@lawa.org](mailto:MKATNICH@lawa.org);  
[lhughes@gatewaytola.org](mailto:lhughes@gatewaytola.org); [OPULIDO@lawa.org](mailto:OPULIDO@lawa.org); [atsloffice@gmail.com](mailto:atsloffice@gmail.com); 'ATS4  
Office'; [behzadbitoraf@aol.com](mailto:behzadbitoraf@aol.com)  
Subject: ATS Response RE: ATS Response RE:  
Commercial Taxi Complaint for 12/2/2015 ATS15-031  
Importance: High

Please see response, below, regarding the above subject.

ATS Management

6150 W. 96th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90045

TEL: 323-776-5324 FAX: 3120-216-4674  
EMAIL: [atsloffice@gmail.com](mailto:atsloffice@gmail.com)

<image003.jpg>

DATE: December  
18, 2015

SUBMITTED BY: Landside Comments

RESPONSE TO: Complainant & LAWA

SUBJECT: Taxi Parking  
COMPLAINT: ATS15-031

Dear Christina Gomez,

Please see the attached NOTICE Letter that was

sent to All Taxicab Companies & Taxicab drivers in response to your below email RE: ATS Response RE: Commercial Taxi Complaint for 12/2/2015 ATS15-031.

Sincerely,

Behzad Bitaraf

GENERAL MANAGER

From: GOMEZ, CHRISTINA [<mailto:CGOMEZ@lawa.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 2:25 PM  
To: 'ATS Front Desk'; [behzadbitaraf@aol.com](mailto:behzadbitaraf@aol.com)  
Cc: Landside Comments; KATNICH, MARISA; 'ATS4 Office'; KATNICH, MARISA; PULIDO, OMAR; Laurie Hughes  
Subject: RE: ATS Response RE: Commercial Taxi Complaint for 12/2/2015 ATS15-031

Hello ATS,

In order to put the drivers on official notice of what is allowed:

1. Please draft an official notice to the taxi drivers and their respective companies regarding where they are allowed to layover as there have been many cabs violating this policy.
2. If you have regular training meetings or staff meetings, this information should be reiterated at this time.
3. Please forward a copy of the letter you send to the cab companies and drivers regarding this issue to the recipients of this email string. Also, inform Landside Comments and me if there is a meeting or training setting that the information can be verbally reiterated to the drivers.

Thank you,

Christina Gomez

From: Laurie Hughes  
[<mailto:lhughes@gatewavtola.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 2:03 PM  
To: 'ATS Front Desk'  
Cc: Landside Comments; GOMEZ, CHRISTINA; KATNICH, MARISA; 'ATS4 Office'; [behzadbitaraf@aol.com](mailto:behzadbitaraf@aol.com); KATNICH, MARISA; PULIDO, OMAR  
Subject: RE: ATS Response RE: Commercial Taxi Complaint for 12/2/2015 ATS15-031

Good Afternoon,

Please be advised that there are a lot of taxis staging on both Vicksburg and 98th Streets at this time.

It is my understanding that LAWA provided an area away from the business district for the taxis to stage so that they don't occupy the parking spaces near the businesses and hotels.

Please direct the taxis to park in the overflow area.

Laurie Hughes

Executive Director

Gateway to L.A.

6151 W. Century Blvd., #121

Los Angeles, CA 90045

[www.gatewaytola.org](http://www.gatewaytola.org)

<[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A\\_\\_www.gatewaytola.org\\_-&d=CwMFAG&c=\\_EZyq3jpmgV82C-qgw4SRw&r=JTUXAbNGN3-XWRBckdoClw&m=-7b8VafGKgz\\_LmUeYhF82FdDddv-AnL8orQWZW7Ffw&s=1IWgoKo1P01VIhMN5suHTYpU1PlEiBBSbKrjPJXDeg8&e=>](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.gatewaytola.org_-&d=CwMFAG&c=_EZyq3jpmgV82C-qgw4SRw&r=JTUXAbNGN3-XWRBckdoClw&m=-7b8VafGKgz_LmUeYhF82FdDddv-AnL8orQWZW7Ffw&s=1IWgoKo1P01VIhMN5suHTYpU1PlEiBBSbKrjPJXDeg8&e=>)>

(310) 216-7328 <tel:%28310%29%20216-7328>  
Office

(310) 418-2661 <tel:%28310%29%20418-2661>  
Mobile

<image004.jpg>

From: ATS Front Desk  
[<mailto:atsloffice@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 12:37 PM  
To: [lhughes@gatewaytola.org](mailto:lhughes@gatewaytola.org)  
Cc: 'Landside Comments'; 'GOMEZ, CHRISTINA';  
[MKATNICH@lawa.org](mailto:MKATNICH@lawa.org); [atsloffice@gmail.com](mailto:atsloffice@gmail.com); 'ATS4 Office';  
[behzadbitoraf@aol.com](mailto:behzadbitoraf@aol.com)  
Subject: ATS Response RE: Commercial Taxi  
Complaint for 12/2/2015 ATS15-031  
Importance: High

Please see response, below, regarding the above subject.

ATS Management

9468 Alverstone Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90045

TEL: 323-776-5324 FAX: 3120-216-4674  
EMAIL: [atsloffice@gmail.com](mailto:atsloffice@gmail.com)

<image005.jpg>

DATE: December  
7, 2015

SUBMITTED BY: Landside Comments

RESPONSE TO: Complainant & LAWA

SUBJECT: Taxi Parking

COMPLAINT: ATS15-031

Dear Laurie Hughes,

We apologize and thank you for bringing to our attention the taxicab parking situation you saw at Vicksburg and 98th Street on Monday, November 30, 2015 @ 12:00 AM.

In response to your concern, regarding the increase in the situation, please know that we no longer have taxicab staging room on Alverstone Avenue - which was used for pink-day taxicabs.

Being aware of the matter, and aiming to address it, from time -to-time, I go outside and move the taxicabs.

Sincerely,

Behzad Bitaraf

GENERAL MANAGER

From: Landside Comments  
[<mailto:landsidecomments@lawa.org>]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 11:54 AM  
To: [atsloffice@gmail.com](mailto:atsloffice@gmail.com)  
Cc: GOMEZ, CHRISTINA; HAYES, RICKEY R.; KATNICH, MARISA  
Subject: Commercial Taxi Complaint for 12/2/2015  
ATS15-031

Hello,

Attached, please find 1 complaint for your review and further investigation. If you have further questions, please

contact your contract manager.

Your response is due no later than 5 calendar days from the date sent.

Thank you.

[LandsideComments@LAWA.org](mailto:LandsideComments@LAWA.org)